

Application No. 10/670,761
Reply dated May 3, 2005
Response to Office Action dated December 3, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A liquid filter/heat exchanger unit comprising:
 - a liquid filter comprising a filter element arranged in a filter housing to divide an unfiltered liquid area from a filtered liquid area;
 - a heat exchanger having an inlet and an outlet for a liquid; said outlet communicating with the unfiltered liquid area of the liquid filter;
 - a heat exchanger bypass which comprises an opening in the filter housing and connects the inlet of the heat exchanger directly to the unfiltered liquid area of the liquid filter; and
 - a plate-shaped switching element for controlling liquid flow through said bypass;

wherein said switching element comprises a bimetal element which permits liquid flow through said bypass at temperatures at or below a switching temperature and blocks liquid flow through said bypass at temperatures above said switching temperature.
2. (original) A liquid filter/heat exchanger unit according to claim 1, wherein the bimetal element is arranged where the bypass is connected to the inlet of the heat exchanger.
- 3-4. (cancelled)
5. (original) A liquid filter/heat exchanger unit according to claim 1, wherein said inlet comprises an inlet channel which communicates directly with the bypass and with the heat exchanger.
6. (cancelled)

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7. (original) A liquid filter/heat exchanger unit according to claim 1, further comprising a baffle plate arranged upstream of the bimetal element.

8. (original) A liquid filter/heat exchanger unit according to claim 1, wherein said inlet and said filtered liquid area are connected to a lubricating oil circuit of an internal combustion engine.

9-13. (cancelled)

14. (new) A liquid filter/heat exchanger unit according to claim 1, wherein the plate-shaped switching element has a center and an outer edge, wherein the switching element is mounted at its center, and wherein the outer edge of the switching element bends towards the bypass at temperatures above the switching temperature to block liquid flow through said bypass.

15. (new) A liquid filter/heat exchanger unit according to claim 14, wherein the outer edge of the switching element moves away from the bypass at temperatures at or below the switching temperature to allow liquid flow through said bypass.